

**FACULTY OF FINE ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONTEMPORARY  
DANCE**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**1999-2000**

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## Introduction

The purpose of the Programme Guide is to give potential students general information about the courses and programme offered in Contemporary Dance at Concordia University. It is recommended that this Guide be used in conjunction with the University Undergraduate Calendar, and supplemented with academic advising with the faculty of Contemporary Dance.

This Guide contains more detailed descriptions than those found in the Calendar. Students should note, however, that not all courses listed in the calendar are offered every year.

The programme is designed to develop contemporary dancers and choreographers, with emphasis on the discovery and development of the creative capacity of each student.

Concordia University is one of the few universities in Canada that offer courses in choreography. Students in these courses have the opportunity of staging their choreographies for and with fellow students in the Dance programme, as well as staging performances with students in other areas of the performing arts within the University.

Students enrolled in the Dance programme are encouraged to register in summer dance courses in the community so as not to break the continuity of training between scholastic years.

## Full-Time Faculty

**Silvy Panet-Raymond, Associate Professor  
(on sabbatical)**  
*Chair, Department of Contemporary Dance*

- Studied with Elizabeth Langley, the Merce Cunningham Company and many of the prominent choreographers and teachers in New York and in London, England
- Co-founder of Dancework (London), Tangente, Danse Actuelle (Montréal)
- Extensive experience in Europe, Canada and Mexico, as choreographer, performer, critic and collaborator with visual artists and musicians
- Winner of Best Director award with René-Richard Cyr and Michel Lemieux for "Solide Salad" by Michel Lemieux, A.D.I.S.Q. 1985.

**Michael Montanaro, Assistant Professor**

- directed his own dance company, Montarnaro Dance
- directed the Summer Hiawatha Dance Festival
- choreographer for several Canadian companies
- consultant for integrated multimedia art projects

**ADMISSION**

All applicants to undergraduate degree programmes in the Faculty of Fine Arts must submit their application forms to the Admissions Office of Concordia University. The application forms are available at the Admissions Office or at most CEGEPs.

The deadline for submission of applications is March 1st.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL APPLICANTS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW/AUDITION AS PART OF THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS.**

Applicants must contact the Department secretary to arrange their appointments prior to March 1st.

*(see page 4 of this guide for auditions and interview information).*

### 90-Credit Programme

Applicants from Québec institutions are required to have successfully completed a two-year pre-university or a three-year pre-professional programme in the CEGEP leading to a Diplôme d'Etudes Collégiales (DEC). No specific CEGEP profile is required for the Major in Contemporary Dance. However, prior experience in Contemporary Dance is expected.

### Mature Entry Programme

Applicants 21 years of age by August 1st, or older, who have been out of school for a minimum of 12 months and who lack the CEGEP diploma (or equivalent), may be eligible to enter the University through the Mature Entry Plan. These students, depending on previous academic background, are normally required to complete 18 credits in addition to the 90 credits required for the BFA degree.

### Extended Credit Programme (Out of Town Applicants)

Applicants from outside the province of Québec, who would be eligible for admission to a four-year degree programme in their home province or state, may be admitted into an extended credit or four-BFA degree programme at Concordia University. These applicants are required to complete 30 credits in addition to the 90 normally required for the BFA degree. These credits should be selected in consultation with the adviser from Contemporary Dance. Students who complete courses required in the Major in Contemporary Dance as part of these 30 credits must replace these courses in their major programme with additional credits in dance selected in consultation with an adviser.

### Auditions/Interviews

All applicants are required to contact the department of Contemporary Dance prior to March 1st, after submission of their applications, to arrange an appointment for their audition/interview. **The Faculty of Fine Arts does not contact applicants to setup an appointment. This is your responsibility.**

Although the official deadline is March 1st, it is strongly advised that applicants contact the Contemporary Dance department before February 1st whenever possible.

Applicants should be prepared to participate in contemporary technique class, an improvisation session and also perform a 2-3 minute choreography preferably composed by the applicant with or without musical accompaniment. Cassette and CD players provided.

**Please note:** Applicants are expected to have completed 1-2 years in contemporary dance prior to audition.

### **Major, Contemporary Dance      Degree Requirements**

The three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programme in Contemporary Dance consists of 60 credits for the Major itself, and 30 credits in electives (12 of which must be selected from courses outside the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communication Studies) to make up the 90-credits required for the BFA degree. Full-time students normally complete 30 credits each academic year, completing the degree in 3 years.

To fulfill the requirements for the Major in Contemporary Dance students must complete the following compulsory courses.

#### **Concentration Requirements**

18 credits	Workshop in Dance I, II, III
12 credits	Body Movement I and/or Body Movement II and/or Body Movement III and/or Principles of Anatomy and Body Movement
12 credits	Choreography I and II
3 credits	Dance Traditions
3 credits	Acting I
6 credits	Sound and Silence for the Dancer
6 credits	Electives from Studio

### Distribution Requirements

In addition to these credits, students must select electives in the following categories

12 credits Selected from courses outside the Faculty of Fine Arts and outside the Department of Communication Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Science. These electives should be selected in consultation with the Contemporary Dance adviser.

12 credits "Free" electives selected from any area in the University, including additional credits in Dance, provided students have the prerequisites for the courses selected.

6 credits Interdisciplinary Studies (FFAR 250)

### Suggested 3-Year Study Plan

**Year I**

6 credits	Workshop in Dance I
6 credits	Body Movement I
3 credits	Acting I
3 credits	Dance Traditions
6 credits	Sound and Silence for the Dancer
6 credits	Visual & Performing Arts in Canada - FFAR 250

**Year II**

6 credits	Workshop in Dance II
6 credits	Body Movement II or Principles of Anatomy and Body Movement
6 credits	Choreography I
6 credits	Elective in Studio Fine Arts (SFAR) or Design for the Theatre (DFTT) or Studio Arts
6 credits	Elective outside the Faculty of Fine Arts

**Year III**

6 credits	Workshop in Dance III
6 credits	Choreography II
6 credits	Elective outside the Faculty of Fine Arts
12 credits	"Free" elective

## Courses

*Please note that students in the Major in Contemporary Dance are given priority when registering for dance courses.*

### **DANCE 200 Workshop in Dance I (Creative Process)** **6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 210, previously or concurrently and enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

Students learn to explore, observe and structure ideas and movements through improvisation and specific exercises which cover such fundamentals as kinetics, rhythm and dynamics, spatial organization, perceptual skills, integration of acoustic, visual and verbal elements.

In addition to the regular studio hours, students must attend two hours of laboratory each week.

### **DANCE 210 Body Movement I (Contemporary Technique)** **6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

Proper alignment and placement of the body in stillness and in motion enable the students to integrate and execute basic patterns and elaborate sequences of movements as a preparation for dance.

Evaluation is based on integration of the above elements and the student's ability to translate the given information to achieve clarity of movement.

### **DANCE 211 Dance Traditions (Dance History)** **(offered every second year)**                   **3 credits**

*Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

A survey of the history of dance including relations between older dance traditions and styles and currents of dance in the 20th Century.

Support material includes the viewing of slides and videos, and bibliographies of specific topics. Grading is based on research in written assignments and tests.

**DANCE 230 Sound and Silence for the Dancer  
(Music Literacy)**

**6 credits**

The basics of music theory through text using beating, singing and moving including the study of rhythm, melody, harmony, tempi, dynamics, tone colour, single line score reading, and musical forms with emphasis on the fundamental understanding of rhythm aurally, viscerally and kinetically.

**DANCE 300 Workshop in Dance II (Creative Process)  
6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 200 and enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

This workshop is a continuation of Dance 200. Fundamentals previously explored in developing an individualized kinetic language; methods of research and their application to concepts, themes, solo, duet and ensemble work are evolved in studio and laboratories.

In addition to class hours students must attend two hours of laboratory per week.

**DANCE 310 Body Movement II (Technique)**

**6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 210 and enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

The technical development of suppleness, strength, coordination, rhythm and kinetic fundamentals, loco-motor patterns, spatial relations and phrasing are formulated into movement sequences to prepare the students for dance.

Evaluation is based on the integration of class material and clarity of execution as well as active participation in class.

**DANCE 320   Choreography I**

**6 credits**

Choreography is the art of rendering a concept into the physical design of dance through movement and forms of notation. It may include the integration of visual and acoustic research. This course develops the personal creativity and broadens the students physical and expressive potential into public performances. By organizing movement, space and time into dances, the students follow through stages of originating the ideas, developing the themes, rehearsing, and performing the choreographic creations.

Some assignments focus on finding creative solutions to patterns, habits of perception, structures, solo, partner and group projects, exploring the interplay of visual, verbal, acoustic and kinetic elements and on selecting effective vantage points in preparing material.

Evaluation is based on active participation in class, application and integration of research done in tutorials and rehearsals. Student works are to be performed.

In addition to the regular studio hours, students must schedule a minimum of 4 hours rehearsal time and 2 hours of practice time per week.

**DANCE 398   Special Topics in Dance**

**3 credits**

*Prerequisite: Written permission from the Contemporary Dance department and/or the Department of Theatre.*

A workshop/seminar course which provides an opportunity for study of specialized aspects of Dance. Topics vary from year to year, taking into account the special aptitudes of instructors and students.

**DANCE 400   Workshop in Dance III (Creative Process)**

**6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 300, and enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance, or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

This course has two main objectives: to give greater range to the creative potential and to develop the performance qualities of each student.

Development of gestural and kinetic vocabulary, thematic exploration and integration of vocal, visual and verbal elements. Finding creative solutions to improvisation structure. Defining and shaping the physical and interpretative qualities particular to a role or part in dance. Through group, partnering and solo assignments in class exercise, as well as one to one coaching, students learn to observe, notate and discuss their progress.

Evaluation is based on the active participation in class and tutorials, consistency of application to research and assignments.

In addition to class hours, students must attend two hours of laboratory per week.

**DANCE 410 Body Movement III (Technique)**

**6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 310, previously or concurrently, and enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance or written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

Emphasis is placed on refining and consolidating the student's practical understanding of kinetics in relation to placement, movement patterns, dynamics and phrasing. The course helps to develop student's advanced perceptual and memory skills, and in assimilating movement in preparation for dance.

**DANCE 420 Choreography II**

**6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Dance 320, enrollment in the Major in Contemporary Dance and written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

Through perceptual and kinesthetic exercises and assignments, practice and discussion, students are given an increased awareness of the various approaches to choreography.

Students also examine: -

- a. the role of the choreographer in social, political and artistic contexts;
- b. the relationships between choreographer/performer and choreographer/audience;
- c. the means of developing their abilities as facilitators/directors in dealing with a cast.

Students are expected to produce work for public performance. Evaluation is based on the development of kinetic/perceptual skills, ability to structure ideas and movement into dances and application to research in class and rehearsal.

In addition to the regular studio hours, students must attend 2 hours of practice laboratory and 4 hours rehearsal each week.

**DANCE 441      Independent Study I      3 credits**

*Prerequisite: Written permission from the Contemporary Dance department.*

Students who have completed advanced level choreography courses or equivalent and whose proposal has been approved by the Chair of the department, have the opportunity of carrying out a project of independent study which deal with specific aspects of contemporary dance. Tutorials with the project advisor are mandatory.

**DANCE 442      Independent Study II      3 credits**

*Prerequisite: Written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

A student wishing to repeat DANC 441 registers for credit under DANC 442. It is also possible, following approval of the proposal by the Chair, to carry out an independent study project in the Winter term only. Tutorials with the project advisor are mandatory.

**DANCE 499      Independent Study (Collective Projects)      6 credits**

*Prerequisite: Written permission of the Department of Contemporary Dance.*

A course for students who have completed Dance 420 and who wish to focus on specific projects in choreography and production for the stage and other media. Students learn to define and consolidate their personal approach to movement and their role as choreographer/director/facilitator in preparation for pre-professional work.

**Facilities**

The Contemporary Dance Department has two studios on the Downtown (Sir George Williams) Campus as well as two large studios and one medium studio situated at the West-end (Loyola) Campus. In addition, there are administration offices on both campuses.

The Loyola Campus also houses audio-visual and computer facilities, a library and media centre, a concert hall, a theatre and a cinema. The three Performing Arts departments - Music, Theatre and Contemporary Dance, as well as departments from other Faculties are situated within reach on this spacious, tree-lined campus.